



## CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT

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### *A Tree's Story* A Journal Activity for Field Trips

#### ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

*A Tree's Story* gives students the opportunity to explore an individual tree. Each student will use their creative writing skills to tell a fictional story. This activity allows students time to observe an individual organism in great detail.

#### MATERIALS

- Student Journals or Paper
- Pencils or Pens

#### TIME

45-60 Minutes (Not including the field trip!)

#### ACTIVITY STEPS

1. Have each student choose a tree and spend several minutes getting acquainted with it. Have students take note of any marks on the tree, missing limbs, smells, or plants or animals on the tree.
2. Explain to students that they are going to write the tree's biography. Tell them that their story is necessary since the tree can not speak for itself. Students should think about the following questions: What kind of tree is it? How old do you think it is? Does it have any fire scars or evidence of other traumatic events? What kind of personality do they think their tree has? Has their tree ever been injured? Are there other animals that their tree shares itself with? Has the tree ever met humans before? Tell them to make educated guesses if they don't know.
3. Have students write their tree's biography in their journals. When they are finished, have students share their stories with the group.